

Message Text

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70

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 011535Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3033

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T ROME 1497

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IT

SUBJECT: MBFR: ITALIAN VIEWS

1. DURING A GENERAL REVIEW OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT MATTERS WITH VISITING ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ROBERT H. MILLER, FONTANT-GIUSTI (CHIEF OF MFA DISARMAMENT OFFICE) BROUGHT UP ITALIAN RESERVATIONS ON THE MBFR NUCLEAR OPTION IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE CONTAINED IN THE "DUCCI PAPER" REPORTED IN VIENNA 0616. MILLER OBSERVED THAT THE APPARENT ITALIAN PREFERENCE FOR INCREASED CONVENTIONAL US WITHDRAWALS IN PHASE I IN PLACE OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION SEEMED INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL, NAMELY TO ERASE THE IMPORTANT CONVENTIONAL DISPARITIES IN GROUND FORCES BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT. FONTANA-GIUSTI SAID THERE WERE THREE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENTLY CONCEIVED NUCLEAR OPTION IN PHASE I: A) WITHDRAWAL OF SOME US TANKS, PARALLELING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TANKS; B) INCLUSION OF AIR PERSONNEL IN THE COMMON CEILINGS; AND C) RESTRICTING THE NUCLEAR OPTION TO TACTICAL "BATTLEFIELD" WEAPONS OR WARHEADS, OMITTING "FBS-TYPE" ELEMENTS SUCH AS

PERSHING AND F-4S.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION MILLER HAD WITH PETRIGNANI
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(DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER), THE LATTER DID NOT ENTIRELY RULE OUT THE EVENTUAL POSSIBILITY OF A NORTHERN ITALY-HUNGARY "TRADE-OFF" ON STABILIZING MEASURES OR NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISIONS. FONTANA-GIUSTI HAD EARLIER BEEN ENTIRELY

NEGATIVE ON THIS QUESTION (PRINCIPALLY ON INTERNAL SECURITY
GROUNDS); BOTH HE AND PETRIGNANI ESTIMATED THAT THE SOVIETS
AND THEIR WARSAW PACT COLLEAGUES WOULD NOT MAKE ANY
CONCESSION ON THE ISSUE OF HUNGARY. VOLPE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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